

PRELIMINARY REPORT

2015: E6 – *Barker Cypress Road*

APPLICANT: Harris County Engineering Department

KEY MAP: 287,327

JURISDICTION: Harris County

LAMBERT: 4669

DISTRICT/PRECINCT:
Harris County Pct.: 4

PROPOSAL:

Harris County is requesting the realignment of Major Thoroughfare Barker Cypress Road, between Grant Road and FM 2920, on the Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan (MTFP).

APPLICANT'S JUSTIFICATION and HISTORY:

The applicant states that this area is projected to see significant growth with the proposed extension of the Grand Parkway. This segment of the Grand Parkway is anticipated to be completed in December 2015. Development activity in the vicinity of the Grand Parkway is accelerating, justifying a review of the entire corridor. Overpass construction now underway at the Grand Parkway creates an approximate 900-foot discrepancy with the current proposed alignment of Barker Cypress Road. Further to the north, the current proposed alignment bisects approximately 21 properties, which could severely impact the future use of the properties, as opposed to the new proposed alignment, which would only bisect approximately four properties south of the Grand Parkway.

The new proposed alignment generally follows existing Cedar Lane. Cedar Lane has a 60-foot right-of-way (ROW) with an existing 24-foot pavement. The applicant suggests that realignment would provide an alignment consistent with the proposed overpass at the Grand Parkway, reduce the number of impacted properties, and lessen the amount of additional ROW needed for the corridor. The feasibility and practicality of constructing the roadway as a Major Thoroughfare are improved by following a county-maintained road. The proposed alignment provides further equal spacing from Barker Cypress Road to the parallel Telge road and Cypress Rose Hill Road alignments.

The applicant contends that if they do not pursue this amendment, more properties and land will be impacted by requiring additional land for ROW dedications instead of utilizing existing Cedar Lane. The proposed realignment would impact approximately 45 properties; however, the impacts would be minimal and would mostly require a 20-foot ROW dedication along each side of Cedar Lane.

The applicant states that the current alignment bisects an existing detention pond, which would be impractical. There is no planned crossing of the Grand Parkway where the current alignment is shown. Therefore, the current alignment would dead-end on both sides of the Grand Parkway. Mobility would be improved by the proposed amendment, utilizing the proposed overpass at the Grand Parkway, and the circulation of north-south traffic would be maintained. The new alignment at the northern end of the corridor would eliminate the double s-curve for Cedar Lane and the single s-curve at Cedar Lane at proposed Holderrieth Road. This would provide for a more efficient roadway.

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Harris County's Dyess Park lies south of the Grand Parkway along the south side of Willow Creek. The park site is currently bisected by the mapped Barker Cypress Road alignment. The applicant suggests that a revised route will reduce the size of the western portion of the park site isolated from the developed park areas.

This corridor lies between Telge Road and Cypress-Rosehill Road. Utilizing the underpass would relieve congestion and traffic on both roads to the east and west. Before 1966, Barker Cypress Road was not shown on the Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan. In 1966, Barker Cypress Road was first depicted on the map as a Major Thoroughfare, terminating at the Grand Parkway slightly north of Boudreaux Road, while Telge Road and Cypress Rosehill Road were shown on the map extending northward into Montgomery County. In 1972, Barker Cypress Road extended northward from Boudreaux Road, terminating at the Grand Parkway further north than in 1966. In 1982, the Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan was amended to extend Barker-Cypress Road north to FM 2920.